

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 020127 SENT ACTION SOFIA DATED
28 JANUARY 1975:

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TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOINT BULGARIAN-U.S.
ECONOMIC COUNCIL

REF: SOFIA 0086

1. IN REPLY TO IDEAS PRESENTED IN REFTTEL, U.S. CHAMBER
GAVE FOLLOWING VIEWS: U.S. SECTION IS PLEASED THAT
DEPUTY MINISTER LUKANOV IS TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN
THE JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL, AND WOULD WELCOME HIS
PLAYING A ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BULGARIAN SECTION, IF
THAT IS PLANNED. IN THIS CONTEXT, U.S. CHAMBER ANXIOUS TO
TAKE HIS VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION REGARDING THE TIMING
OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. U.S. CHAMBER REGRETS,
HOWEVER, THAT OTHER COMMITMENTS WOULD PRECLUDE HAVING
THE MEETING AT END OF MAY/BEGINNING OF JUNE AS HE
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SUGGESTED.

2. FURTHER, MEMBERS OF U.S. SECTION HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADVISED TO SET ASIDE FIRST TWO DAYS OF SEPTEMBER FOR THE MEETING, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF TELEX FROM BULGARIAN

CHAMBER PRESIDENT PENKOV CONFIRMING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF OLDING THE MEETING THEN. A CHANGE IN MEETING DATES NOW COULD RISK LOSING ATTENDEES ALREADY COMMITTED. U.S. SECTION, HOWEVER READY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR ALTERNATIVE DATES WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BULGARIAN SECTION, ONCE HE IS NAMED.

3. U.S. SECTION APPRECIATES EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS AND WANTS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE LUKANOV, AS WELL AS EMBASSY. HOWEVER, AS FOREGOING SUGGESTS THERE IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM INVOLVED IN PICKING DATES PROPOSED BY LUKANOV. U.S. CHAMBER, MOREOVER, DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT MOMENTUM WILL BE LOST BY HAVING MEETING LATER IN YEAR. IN VIEW OF NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE (INCLUDING, THE NAMING OF THE BULGARIAN SECTION CONSTITUENTS) AND POSSIBLE U.S. PUBLIC REAPPRAISAL OF EAST-WEST TRADE RESULTING FROM TRADE ACT, LATER DATES APPEAR MORE DESIRABLE. U.S. CHAMBER PROVIDES THESE COMMENTS FOR INFORMATION OF U.S. EMBASSY; IT HAS ALREADY TELEXED ITS VIEWS TO BULGARIAN CHAMBER PRESIDENT PENKOV AND DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER LUKANOV. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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